

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP) At- A- Glance

Mission and Vision

The GEAR UP program is a discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides five-year grants to States and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students.

The US Department of Education awarded a GEAR UP grant in the amount of \$4.6 million over a five-year period to the State Education Office (SEO). GEAR UP is unique from other initiatives. This program employs partnerships committed to serving and accelerating the academic achievement of the participating cohort of students. GEAR UP partnerships supplement (not supplant) existing reform efforts, offer services that promote academic preparation and the understanding of necessary costs to attend college, provide professional development, and continuously build capacity so that projects can be sustained beyond the term of the grant.

Participants

- ❖ The target population is more than 1,100 sixth graders in five District of Columbia middle or junior high schools including: *Ronald H. Brown Middle School, J. H. Johnson Junior High School, MacFarland Middle School, Paul Public Charter Junior High School and R. H. Terrell Junior High School.*
- ❖ Each participating school is partnered with a local college or university including: *Georgetown University, Howard University, Southeastern University, Trinity College and University of the District of Columbia.*

Awareness is a major component of GEAR UP and includes but is not limited to: exposure to postsecondary institutions, parental/community involvement, career options requiring a college degree, information about financial aid and/or grants, counseling, mentoring and other support services. **Readiness** is the academic preparation necessary to gain admittance to college including: increased proficiency in reading, mathematics particularly algebra and foreign language. To facilitate these objectives and provide academic as well as support services, the DC GEAR-UP Program will place a School Director and Assistant at each participating middle or junior high school.



**Empowering Students for
SUCCESS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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WHAT IS GEAR UP?

GEAR UP is an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. It is a discretionary grant program under the US Department of Education designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides five-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to its participants.

WHAT IS DC GEAR UP?

DC GEAR UP is a GEAR UP program established through a five-year grant awarded to the State Education Office in the amount of \$4.6 million dollars. The program will help prepare young people for college. The components of the DC GEAR UP program include: academic preparation; early college awareness information and education for students, parents, teachers and counselors; college financial assistance information; and student and family support services, such as counseling, mentoring and tutoring. The DC GEAR UP program will serve approximately 1156 6th and 7th graders.

For more information, please contact your DC GEAR UP School Director or the DC GEAR UP office at:

State Education Office

DC GEAR UP Program

441 4th Street NW, Suite 350 N

Washington, DC 20001

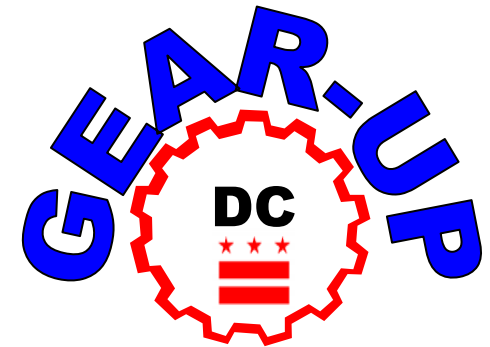
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District of Columbia

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State Education Office
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Washington, DC 20001



**Empowering Students for
SUCCESS**

Gaining

Early

Awareness &

Readiness for

Undergraduate

Programs

Meet the Crew

Our GEAR UP Partner Schools:

Ron Brown Middle School

J.A. Johnson Junior High School

MacFarland Middle School

Paul Public Charter Junior High School

R.H. Terrell Junior High School

AND...

Our GEAR UP University Partners:

Georgetown University

Howard University

Southeastern University

Trinity College

University of the District of Columbia

WHAT IS AWARENESS?

Awareness is a major component of GEAR UP and includes but is not limited to: exposure to postsecondary institutions, parental/community involvement, career options requiring college education, information about financial aid and/or grants, counseling, mentoring and other support services.

WHAT IS READINESS?

Readiness is the academic preparation necessary to gain admittance to college including: increased proficiency in reading, mathematics particularly algebra, foreign language, social studies and science.

HOW WILL DC GEAR UP WORK?

DC GEAR UP has college and university partners who will provide activities and programs for participating schools. Students and parents will visit colleges and universities and have the opportunity to learn about scholarships and college costs. GEAR UP students will benefit from an enhanced curriculum and new teaching strategies that will better prepare students for college and other educational opportunities after high school graduation.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

All 7th grade students at each GEAR UP partner schools. DC GEAR UP will follow this group of students each year until their high school graduation.



SCHOLARSHIPS

DC GEAR UP will establish a scholarship fund to provide tuition assistance to participants who successfully complete high school.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

DC GEAR UP is absolutely free to all participants.

